ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS,

1914.

23rd March, 1914.

Annual Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Museum at 8 p.m., Dr. G. H. Butler in the chair.

The Annual Report of the Council for 1913 (printed in the *Papers and Proceedings* for 1913) was read, and, on the motion of the Chairman, was adopted.

Mr. J. A. Johnson, Honorary Secretary of the Psychology and Education Section, read the Report of the Section for 1913.

The following nine members, having been duly nominated, and there being no other nominations, were declared elected as members of the Council for 1914:—Dr. G. H. Butler, Dr. A. H. Clarke, Professor T. Thomson Flynn, Mr. L. F. Giblin, Dr. J. L. Glasson, Mr. J. A. Johnson, Dr. Fritz Noetling, Mr. E. L. Piesse, and Mr. Leonard Rodway.

On the motion of Mr. M. W. Simmons, Mr. H. W. W. Echlin was appointed Auditor for 1914.

Mr. J. W. Fraser, M.Sc., Fel. A.I.E.E., M. Can. Soc. C.E., Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, Dr. S. A. McClintock, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H., Mr. T. W. Robertson, Mr. R. H. Smith, LL.B., and Lieut. W. B. Wilkinson, R.A.N., were elected members.

Alterations of Rules.

A Special General Meeting was held at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, Dr. G. H. Butler in the chair, to consider recommendations of the Council for alterations in Rules 1, 47, and 56.

The following statement was submitted by the Council in support of its recommendation that Rule 1 be altered to read: "The object of the Society is the advancement of knowledge."

"1. The objects of the Society were defined in the origi-
"nal rules of 1843, as follows:—

"The leading objects of the Society shall be to develope
"the physical character of the Island, and illustrate its
"natural history and production."

"This definition, with an unimportant verbal change, "was retained until 1907. On 23rd December, 1907, new "rules were made, by which it was declared that

"The objects of the Society are the prosecution of "the study of Science in its various branches, and more "especially the development of a knowledge of the "physical character and natural history of Tasmania "and the neighbouring States."

"This rule was re-enacted in the rules made on 22nd "May, 1911, which are still in force.

"2. The present definition is open to criticism on several "grounds:—

"(a) It is doubtful if it includes History; but History "is one of the subjects for which, by Rule 51, a Section "may be established; and for many years the Society "has published historical papers.

"(b) It is doubtful whether 'Science,' in its ordinary "meaning in such a context, includes 'Education,' which "is another of the subjects for which a Section may be "established.

"(c) The Society for many years has welcomed papers "on subjects of Political and Social Science. It is doubt- "ful again if these subjects are within the objects.

"(d) The definition contains a phrase of doubtful "meaning—'physical character.' In the early days of "the Society this phrase seems to have included 'Natu- "'ral History'; it is doubtful what it means now, and "its former prominence in the definition has led to some "misconception of the Society's work.

"3. It is desirable in the interests of the Society that "papers and meetings devoted to History, Education, Poli- "tical Science, and the like, should be encouraged. Tech- "nical papers on Natural History subjects, such as descrip- "tions of species, repel many of our members, and the "erroneous belief that the Society gives predominance to "such papers deters many from joining. Apart from this "financial consideration, many members consider that the "Society should lose no opportunity to be of immediate "use to the community, and this is more likely to be "achieved if the scope of its work is made as extensive as "the attainments of its members justify.

"4. The terms 'natural science, social science, and his- "'tory' are adequate and appropriate to describe the papers "and discussions in the Society, and its predecessor, the "Tasmanian Society, almost from their foundation. It-

"may, therefore, be suggested that for the sake merely of "more accurate definition, and without broadening what "has been the scope of the Society, Rule 1 should read:—

"The objects of the Society are the prosecution of the "study of natural science, social science, and history.

"5. The question arises, however, whether it would not "be wise to broaden the scope of the Society.

"Tasmania is a small country, and the lesson of many "larger communities is that multiplicity of learned socie- "ties, except in large and wealthy countries, is to be "avoided. As Tasmania grows, and persons having special- "ised interests become more numerous, it will be to the "advantage of all that they should organise themselves as "sections of an existing body rather than as independent "societies. The history of the Royal Society, the age of "its publication, its recognition by the Governments of "Tasmania and of foreign countries, its correspondence "with learned academies in many countries, the extent "and varied contents of its library, enforce the suggestion "that it should be ready to enroll and assist workers in any "branch of knowledge.

"6. Many countries throughout the world have 'Aca- "'demies,' which embrace the whole of knowledge in their "objects—the Institut de France, the Reale Accademia "delle Scienze dell' Instituto di Bologna, the Connecticut "Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society of "Canada, the New Zealand Institute, to name only a few. "These institutions present the advantage that workers in "all branches of knowledge are united in one body; while "the needs of specialisation are met by the formation of "sections, and (if the amount of work so warrants) by the "publication of several series of proceedings. It is still "possible for the Society to follow their example without "interfering with other societies, for as yet it is the only "learned Society in Tasmania.

"7. A redefinition of the objects of the Society, which "would include all branches of knowledge, is unlikely for "the present to produce much alteration in the character "of its meetings or its proceedings. The Council would "retain its present control of the papers read to the "Society, and papers, for instance, on speculative or "imaginative subjects, such as philosophy or literature, "need not be actively encouraged unless it is evident that a "large number of members desire them. If a sufficient "number of members did wish to hear such papers, and

"there were not time for them at the ordinary meetings, "a separate section could be organised for them.

"8. It is suggested, then, that Rule 1 be altered to read:

"The object of the Society is the advancement of know- "ledge."

Mr. E. L. Piesse moved that Rule 1 be altered accordingly, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Piesse also moved that in Rules 47 and 56 (which prescribe the notice required for a special meeting) the words "seven days" be altered to "six days." He explained that the object of the alterations was to enable the Council, which meets on the first Monday of the month, to call a special meeting for the second Monday (which is the day of the monthly general meeting) in the same month. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Honorary Acting Secretary.

Professor Flynn moved a vote of thanks to Mr. E. L. Piesse for his services as Honorary Acting Secretary during 1913, and in particular for his work in cataloguing the library and editing the publications of the Society. The motion was supported by Mr. A. J. Taylor, Mr. A. O. Green, and the Chairman, and was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Piesse, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that the Society from the very year of its foundation had been able to obtain the services of its members in conducting its affairs, and he deemed it an honour to have occupied a position in which three such distinguished members as the Hon. W. T. N. Champ, the Rev. Dr. John Lillie, and Sir James Agnew had served the Society. The work he had done in connection with the library had been severe, but the library, which now contained over 10,000 items, and was growing rapidly, was of great value, and he hoped that its rearrangement and cataloguing would enable much more use to be made of it.

15th April, 1914.

The Monthly General Meeting was held in the Museum at 8 p.m., the President in the chair.

Election of Members.

Mr. C. C. Brittlebank (Vegetable Pathologist in the Department of Agriculture of Victoria) and Mr. A. L. Butler were elected members.

Officers.

The Honorary Secretary reported that the Council at its last meeting had made the following elections and appointments for the current year:—Dr. G H. Butler to be Chairman of the Council; Mr. E. L. Piesse to be Honorary Secretary; Mr. Leonard Rodway to be Honorary Treasurer; Drs. G. H. Butler, A. H. Clarke, and Fritz Noetling, Professor T. Thomson Flynn, Messrs. E. L. Piesse and Leonard Rodway to be Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens.

Papers.

The following papers were read:—

"Quaternions Applied to Physics in Non-Euclidean Space. I.: the Mathematical Methods." By Professor Alexander McAulay, M.A., Professor of Mathematics in the University of Tasmania.

"Notes on Some Tasmanian Eucalypts." by Mr. J. H. Maiden, F.L.S., Government Botanist of New South Wales and Director of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

"Additional Note on Stones used by the Aborigines." By Mr. H. Stuart Dove.

In 1910 (these *Papers and Proceedings*, 1910, pp. 262-264) Mr. Dove described two types of "hammer" or "pounding" stones, of which he had found specimens in coastal sand dunes, and inland on the River Mersey, on the North-West Coast of Tasmania. He now describes two specimens found much further inland, near the waters of the Upper Forth River. The dimensions and weights of these flat, roughly circular, stones are:—(i.) $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter; thickness at edge, from 1 inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; weight, about $1\frac{1}{2}$lb.; (ii.) $4\frac{3}{8}$ x $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter; thickness at edge, 1 inch to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; weight, about $1\frac{3}{4}$lb. Each has one side practically flat, and the other slightly convex; in each one side is smooth, the other rough; in one the smooth side is the flat, in the other the convex, side. Both are of diabase. In both the edges have been chipped, but in each about 1 inch at the thinnest part of the circumference has been left in its natural state; a similar feature was noted in the stones previously described. Mr. Dove points out that the chipping of the edges would be of little advantage if the stones were used for pounding, and suggests that the chipping was intended to give the stones a better shape for the hand, so that they might be used as missiles.

11th May, 1914.

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Museum at 8 p.m., the President in the chair.

Exhibit.

A specimen of *Histiogamphelus Briggsii* McCulloch (gen. n., sp. n.), a fish taken at Wineglass Bay, East Coast of Tasmania, during a dredging trip of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club, was exhibited from the Tasmanian Museum.

Matter and Electricity.

The remainder of the meeting was given to an account by Dr. J. L. Glasson of "Modern Views of Electricity," illustrated by slides and experiments.

15th June, 1914.

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Museum at 8 p.m., the President in the chair.

Land Connections with Antarctica.

The business of the meeting was a discussion of the supposed former land connections of Antarctica with Australasia and South America.

Professor Flynn stated the evidence in favour of former land connections afforded by the distribution of animals, particularly of the polyprotodont marsupials, iguanas, crustacea, snails, and land turtles.

Dr. Noetling remarked that those who advocated a land connection did not say at what period they supposed it had existed. There might have been continuous land in, say, Eocene times, when the fauna of the earth was quite different from the present fauna; but there was little evidence of a land connection in the more recent periods during which the present fauna had appeared.

Mr. Rodway* referred to the distribution of the beeches, of which allied species were found in Tasmania and Terra del Fuego. It was not probable that these had been carried from one country to another by sea-currents or migratory birds, and the botanist required a land connection to explain their distribution. But the botanist had no evidence that such a connection must have been through Antarctica.

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* A fuller statement of Mr. Rodway's remarks is printed at pp. 32-34.

13th JULY, 1914.

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Museum at 8 p.m., the President in the chair.

A Supposed Case of Mimicry.

Mr. G. H. Hurlstone Hardy exhibited specimens of an Ichneumon (species not determined), having a colour-pattern identical with the colour-pattern of some very common Braconidae (species not determined). The group to which the Bracon belongs can be met with throughout the spring, summer, and autumn; it has very black wings, and the abdomen is black, with very narrow white wings; the head and thorax are sometimes black, sometimes red. In the species in question, the head, the thorax as far back as the intermediate coxae and posterior wings, are red; the anterior legs are sometimes red, sometimes black. The imitating Ichneumon has identical colours; in the specimens seen the anterior legs are red. Specimens have been taken in Southern Tasmania in October and May, showing it to have the same range of flight as the Bracons.

New Zealand Mountains and Lakes.

Mr. L. H. Lindon exhibited a large number of views of New Zealand mountains and lakes, and spoke of the scenery which they illustrated.

Paper.

The following paper was read:—"The Diptera-Brachycera of Tasmania. Part I: Families Leptidae, Stratiomyidae, Nemestrinidae, and Cyrtidae." By Arthur White.

14th SEPTEMBER, 1914.

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Museum at 8 p.m., the President in the chair.

Election of Member.

Mr. A. E. Goetze was elected a member.

Papers.

The following papers were read:—

"Tasmanian Relics in the Havre Museum." By Charles Hedley (communicated by E. L. Piesse).

"Notes on Tasmanian Caprellidae." By E. A. Briggs, B.Sc. (communicated by E. L. Piesse).

Professor Arthur Dendy, of London, corresponding member, gave an address on "Progressive Evolution."

Meetings were not held in August, October, or November.